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VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

PETITION¹ OF THE INHABITANTS OF KENTUCKY TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

To the Honorable the Convention of Virginia.

The Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Kentucke (or Louisa) River on the Western parts of Fincastle County.

Humbly Sheweth that many of your Petitioners became Adventurers in this part of the Colony in the year 1774, in

¹This, and the succeeding paper are fundamental documents in the history of Kentucky. That section of country had been practically a no-man's-land used as a hunting ground by many tribes. At the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768, the Six Nations had ceded to the English government the land south of the Ohio. Virginia claimed this territory under its charter, and the Cherokees made some vague and ill-founded pretensions to it.

It suited the purposes of a land company, organized by Richard Henderson and others, of North Carolina, to recognize the claims of the Cherokees, and on March 11, 1775, this tribe sold Kentucky to the Henderson Company. This company immediately opened a land office, and in the same year a convention of eighteen delegates convened at Boonsboro, acknowledged the rights of the Henderson Company, and proceeded to organize a government. These actions caused great discontent among many of the settlers, and in June, 1776, another meeting was held at Harrodsburg, which declared its opposition to the Henderson movement, gave allegiance to Virginia, and elected John Gabriel Jones and George Rogers Clark, delegates to the Virginia Convention of 1776. Clark's account of his connection with these proceedings and of the feeling of the people, which he gave afterwards in his memoirs, has been followed by most writers on the subject, but is exceedingly inaccurate. Butterfield's *George Rogers Clark's Conquest of the Illinois*, is the only work which appears to give any accurate and judicious account of Clark's life at this time and of the events connected with it. In spite of a crude style and confused arrangement, Butterfield knew (as none of the other writers on Clark

order to provide a subsistence for themselves and their Posterity; but were soon obliged by our Savage Enemy to abandon their Enterprize and in the year Following, after the Country had been discovered and explored; many more became adventurers, some of whom claimed Land by Virtue of warrant [Illegible.]

Royal Proclamation in the year 1763, and others by Pre-occupancy agreeable to the Entry Laws of Virginia. And in the mean time a Company of men from North Carolina purchased or Pretended to Purchase from the Cherokee Indians, all that track of Land from the Southernmost waters of Cumberland River to the Banks of Louisa or Kentucke River, including also the Lands on the which inhabitants live in Powells Valley. By virtue of which Purchase they stile themselves the true and absolute Proprietors of the New Independent Province (as they call Transylvania) they are indeavour-

have known) the Virginia records, and had sense enough to make a proper use of them. It should be mentioned, by the way, that when this valuable book appeared it received an airy and condescending notice in the *American Historical Review*, which was evidently written by some one who had not read the book, or was very ignorant of the subject.

Jones and Clark reached Virginia after the convention adjourned. On hearing of this, Mr. Jones joined the force under Col. Christian, which was about to march against the Cherokees, while Clark went on to Williamsburg.

After consultation with the governor and council he procured an order for five hundred pounds of gunpowder for the use of the people of Kentucky. When the Assembly met in the fall, Clark and Jones laid the Kentucky petition before it, and in December, 1776, an act was passed establishing the county of Kentucky. (*Hening*, IX, 257, 258.)

The Virginia government declared the Henderson purchase void; but in 1778, as a recompense for the trouble and expense of the members, gave them a large tract of land on Ohio and Green rivers.

The acknowledgment which the settlers make, that the occupation of Kentucky was made possible by the battle of Point Pleasant is of interest.

As a farther step in the winning of the West, it may be stated that Clark's conquest of the Northwest was made possible by the occupation of Kentucky. .

ing to Erect, And in consequence of their Usurped authority, Officers both Civil and Military are appointed, Writs of Election issued, Assemblys Convened, A Land Office opened, Conveyances made, Lands sold at an Exorbitant Price, and a System of Policy introduced which does not at all Harmonize with that lately adopted by the United Colonies. But on the Contrary for ought yet appears this Fertile Country will afford a safe Asylum to those, whose principles are Inimical to American Freedom. But your Petitioners have the greatest Reason to question the Validity of those mens purchase being well informed that the Cherokees never extended their Claims North of Cumberland River, nor would warrant any Lands on the other side. Besides its now well known, that the Indians of the six Nations Claimed and ceded those very Lands to the Crown of Great Brittain at a Treaty held at Fort Stanwix in November 1768. We therefore are not willing to obey those men, or the authority they have assumed or indeed to acknowledge any power or prerogative, which is not derived from the Convention of Virginia whose subjects we desire to be considered.

Virginia, we conceive, can claim this Country with the greatest justice and propriety, its within the Limits of their Charter. They Fought and bled for it. And had it not been for the memorable Battle, at the Great Kanaway those vast Regions had yet continued inaccessible. Nor can we conceive, how it is practible for those men who stile themselves Absolute proprietors, to settle this Country at so great a Distance from all the Colonies, and in the Neighbourhood of some Enemy Indians.

But should our Infant settlement become the object of your Deliberations, and be taken under your protection and Direction unto, whom we justly conceive to Belong, Every obstacle would be Removed, Population increase and of consequence a Barrier to the interior parts of Virginia from the Indians. A new source of wealth would then be opened, as Trade and Navigation under the auspices of Virginia would Flourish, in the Western world. And therefore willing to acquit our con-

science and not entail Slavery upon our posterity by submitting to the pretensions and impositions of the pretended proprietors, We the Inhabitants of the North and South sides of Kentucke River, having assembled together after preparatory notice on the Eighth day of June 1776 and continued to poll till 7th of said Instant, [Illegible.] a Majority was chosen Captain John Gabriel Jones, and Captain George Rodgers Clark, and hope ye Honorable the Convention will receive them as our Delegates from this the Western parts of Fincastle County. And as we sincerely concur in the measures established by the Continental Congress and Colony of Virginia, And willing to the utmost of our abilities to support the present laudable cause, by Raising our Quto of men, and bear a proportionable share of Expence that will necessarily accrue in the support of our Common Liberty. And that good order may be observed we proceeded to Elect a Committee consisting of Twenty one members, already some in West Augusta and which precedent we rely upon to justify our Proceedings to the World, for without Law or authority, Vice here could take its full scope having no Laws to Restraine or Power to Controul. Upon the whole we Cheerfully submit to the authority and jurisdiction of this house, not doubting but you will take us under your protection, and give us such direction by our Representatives, as you, in your great Wisdom may think Best. And your petitioners as in Duty Bound &c.

Herrodsburg, June 7-15th, 1776.

Signed by order of the Inhabitants,

ABRAHAM HITE, JR.,
Clerk.

[Endorsement]

Representation from Fincastle, 1776.

PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF WEST FINCASTLE TO THE
COLONY [CONVENTION?] OF VIRGINIA.

[1776]

To the Honourable the Convention of Virginia:

The Humble Petition of the Committee of West Fincastle

of the Colony of Virginia, Being on the North and South sides of the River Kentucke (or Louisa) Present John Gabriel Jones Esq'r Chairman, John Bowman, John Cowen, William Bennet, Joseph Bowman, John Crittendon, Isaac Hite, George Rodgers Clark, Silas Harland, Hugh McGary, Andrew McConnel, James Herrod, William McConnel, and John Maxwell Gent'n.

The Inhabitants of this Frontier part of Virginia who are equally desirous of contributing to the utmost of their power to the support of the present laudable cause of American Freedom, and willing to convince and prove to the World that tho' they live so remote from the seat of Government, that they Feel in the most sensible manner for their suffering Brethren; and that they most ardently desire to be looked upon as a part of this Colony, notwithstanding the Base proceedings of a Detestible, Wicked, and Corrupt Ministry, to prevent any more Counties to be laid off, without the Inhabitants would be so pusilanimous as to give up their right of appointing proper persons to represent them (in Assembly or) in Convention: And as we Further conceive that as the Proclamation of his Majesty for not setting on the Western parts of this Colony, is not founded upon Law, it cannot have any Force, And if we submit to that Proclamation, and Continue not to lay off new Counties on the Frontiers that they may send Representatives to the Convention, its leaving an opening to the wicked and Diabolical designs of the Ministry, as then this immense and Fertile Country would afford a safe Assylum to those whose Principles are inimical to American Liberty. And if new Counties are not laid off, as Fincastle County now Reaches and already settled upwards of Three Hundred Miles from East to West it is impossible that two delegates can be sufficient to Represent & such a respectable Body of People, or that such a number of Inhabitants should be bound to obey without being heard. And as those very people would most Cheerfully Co-operate in every measure tending to the Publick Peace, and American Freedom, they have delegated two Gentlemen, who was Chosen

by the Free Voice of the people, and which Election was held for Eight Days at Harrodsburg (on the Western Waters of Fincastle on Kentucke) after the preparatory Notice of Five Weeks given to the Inhabitants and on the poll being closed Captain John Gabriel Jones and Captain George Rodgers Clark, having the majority were chosen, and not doubting the acceptance of them as our Representatives, by the Honourable the Convention, to serve in that capacity; as we conceive the precedent Establish'd in West Augusta will justify our Proceeding; And we cannot but observe how impolitical it would be to suffer such a Respectable body of prime Rifle men, to remain (even) in a state of Neutrallity. When at this time, a Certain set of men from North Carolina, stiling themselves proprietors and claiming an absolute right to these very Lands, taking upon themselves the Legislative Authority, Commissioning Officers, both Civil, and Military having also opened a Land Office, Surveyors General and Deputys appointed and act, Conveyances made and Land sold at an exorbitant Prices many other Unconstitutional practices, tending to disturb the minds of those, who are well disposed to the wholesome Government of Virginia, and creating Factions, and Divisions amongst ourselves, as we have no hitherto been Represented in Convention: And as at this time of General danger we cannot take too much Precaution to prevent the Inroads of the Savages, and prevent the Effusion of Innocent Blood. We the Committee, after receiving a message from the Chiefs of the Delaware's who are now settled near the mouth of the Waubash, informing us that a Treaty was to be held at Opost, by the English and Kiccapoos Indians, and that they would attend to know the purport of the same, and if their Brothers the Long Knives would send a man they could rely on, they would, on their return inform 'em of the same, as they were apprehensive the Kiccapoos would strike their Brothers the Long Knives, therefore we thought it most prudent, and shall send immediately a Certain James Herrod and Garret Vendergrass, so converse with them on the same. And as its the Request of the Inhabitants that we should point out a

number of men capable and most acquainted with the Laws of this Colony to act as Civil Magistrates, a list of the same we have inclosed. And for other matters relative to this Country we Conceive that Captain Jones and Captain Clark our Delegates will be able to inform the Honourable the Convention, not doubting but they will listen to our just petition and take us under their Jurisdiction. And your petitioners as in Duty Bound &c.

Signed by order of the Committee
Herrodsbury, June 20th, 1776.

J. G. JONES, Chairman.
ABRAHAM HITE, JN'R., Clerk.

LETTER FROM VAN BIBBER² AND HARRISON TO THE VIRGINIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, 1776.

St. Eustatia, June 14th, 1776.

We take the liberty of addressing a few lines to your honourable Body, to inform you, that in order to render our services more extensively useful to our Country & Friends, we have this day entered into a Copartnership, which we propose to carry on under the firm of Van Bibber and Harrison. The former will reside here, the latter at St. Pierri, Martinique. Should you find occasion, therefore, for any assistance at either of those places, we should esteem ourselves honoured

²During the Revolutionary War the Dutch Island of St. Eustatia was to the new-born United States what Nassau was to the Confederate States during the Civil War. The letters from Van-Bibber and Harrison, which follow, as well as those printed in Vol. XV., of this Magazine, show the great importance of the military and other supplies which the Americans obtained from this source. It is difficult to see how the contest could have been carried on without them. In 1781 the English admiral, Rodney, captured St. Eustatia and confiscated goods in the hands of merchants of many nationalities of immense value. It was thought that this would be a severe blow to the United States; but as most of the confiscated goods were sold by auction, it is stated that they were eventually obtained by the Americans at lower rates than they could have been if the trade with St. Eustatia had not been interrupted.

by your Command, and beg leave to assure you, that we will execute them with more pleasure, Zeal and Fidelity.

The Islands at this time, will, between them, afford all you want; and on tolerable good terms. The more important article, we have reason to believe, will be yet in greater abundance.

Produce of all kinds sell high. But Tobacco is the most profitable Article at present.

Goods are generally cheapest here. But Martinque (or its neighbour St. Lucia) is by far the safest place to send your Vessells to.

Should this Information prove of any advantage to you, it will produce no less satisfaction to us, who have the Honour of being very respectfully,

Yours Hon's & the Public's most obed't and most h'ble
Servants

AB'M VAN BIBBER,
R'D. HARRISON.

To Edm'd Pendleton Esq'r.,

President of the Hon'ble Council of Safety of Virginia:

LETTERS FROM VAN BIBBER AND HARRISON.

St. Eustatia, 25 July, 1776.

Inclosing Bills of Lading for—Powder.

St. Eustatius, July 25, 1776.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the Colony of
Virginia,

Gentlemen:—

Your very much esteemed favours of 25th April & 13th May came safe to hand are now before whose contents I note; They have served to answer the desired Effect and I find myself under every obligation to your Honourable House for your favourable opinion of my conduct. The Vessels mentioned address'd to my care are not arrived, if any of them should be fortunate enough you may depend they will have quick dispatch. I wrote you the 24th May by Capt. Isaac Caton in a Ten Gun Sloop bound to Charles Town So.

Carolina by whom shipped you fourteen thousand three hundred w't of Gun Powder. I likewise wrote you the 13th June by Captain Martin & shipped sixteen thousand three hundred w't of Powder this Martin is in a ten Gun Brigantine and has a very considerable cargo on board for the Province of Maryland dayly hope & expect to hear of his arrival I have debeted Mess's Lux & Bowly to your Colony's C'r for £1015—by advice from them & have received a Bill from Mr. John Dixon or Mr. Webb for 600 Dollars but not heard of its exceptance. I intend to give you a state of your acct with me, by the next opportunity and shall pay the ball'nce to Van Bibber & Harrison who all have already informed you had enter'd into a Partnership in order to strenghten our Credit that we may be more enabled to comply with and Facilitate the commands of our Country and supply their many wants, therefore in future beg you'd direct your favours for either of us to V. B. & H. S. Pier's Martinique. I intend continuing here, but think it not so safe for Vessels to get into as this other Place mentioned. I am

Gentlemen with profound Resp.,

Your most Obed't. Hum' Serv't.,

ABM. VAN BIBBER.

St. Eustatius, July 25, 1776.

Gentlemen:—

The preceding is a Letter our A. V. B. acknowledging the Receipt of your several favours. We now embrace this opportunity by Capt. John Pasture in a very fine Boat belonging to your Colony to ship on account and Risque of said Colony seven thousand five hundred pounds Gun Powder and ninety stand of Arms for which you have inclos'd & Bill of Lading. We also intend to ship on board a fine Burmuda built Boat Capt. Davis four thousand pounds Gun Powder and ninety stands of Arms the whole of which sincerely wish safe to hand. We have assured Capt. Pasture that if he should be fortunate enough to arrive safe and deliver his cargo in good order he would be generously treated by your honourable House to encourage him to exert himself. Our R. H. is at

Martinique where I understand some Vessels from Virginia and other Provinces are arrived. With due Respect we Remain

Gentlemen Your most Hum. Ser't,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

The Hon'ble the Council of Safety for the Colony of Virginia:

Invoice of Sundries shipped by Van Bibber & Harrison on board the Boat Pluto, Thomas Davis, Master, on acct. & risk, of the Colony of Virginia, agreeable to Bill of Lading, therewith transmitted.

Saint Eustatia, July 25, 1776.

	state		cury.	
4000 lbs. of Gun Powder. .a	£13.4	p. C.	528	
90 Stand of Arms . . .	49s. 6d.		222.	15. 6
Storage			2.	12. 6
Portrage & literage on 6°				16. 6
			754.	4.
Commission 5 p. C.			37.	14. 2
			£791.	18. 2

(Copy)

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

Invoice of Sundries shipped by Van Bibber & Harrison on board the Boat Molly, John Pasture, Master on Acc't & Risque of the Colony of Virginia agreeable to Bill of Lading therewith transmitted.

Saint Eustatia, July 25, 1776.

	staten		cury.	
7500 lbs. Gun Powder—13£ 4s . . .	990.		—	
90 Stand of Arms 49s. 6d	222.		15	
Storage	7.		10.	
Portrage & Liter'e on board	1.		19.	6
	1222.		4.	6
Commission 5 p. C.	61.		2.	3
	1283.		6.	9

(Copy)

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

Saint Pierre,

Martinique, Aug. 15, 1776.

Gentlemen:—

We did ourselves the Honour of writing you from St. Eustatia on the 14th of June, acquainting you of our Connection, & making a tender of our services, w^{ch} we hope got to hand, being accompanied with a considerable Quantity of Powder shipp'd you by our A. V. B. in the Brig'e Friendship Capt. Martin.

The present serves to cover Invoices of two parcells of Gun Powder & Arms shipped you the 25th ulto in the Boat Molly Capt. John Pasture, & Pluto, Capt. Thomas Davis, in consequence of what you wrote our A. V. B. We hope it will all be safely landed before you see this.

These Goods are part of a large purchase made by us in June for which we are to pay by the middle of the ensuing Month, or be accountable for an Interest of 8 p ct from that period. Should your remittances therefore not get to hand within the limited time, we think proper to mention that you, as well as our other Friends, will be liable for your proportion of this additional charge. The publick Good alone induced us into the Engagement, had our views been otherwise, abundant opportunities have offered by which we could have benefitted ourselves 50 p ct.

The article of Powder has got up again to near 4s. in Statier and 3s. at this place; we do not however imagine these prices can be supported long. Dry goods, particularly Linnens, are plenty and may be purchased tolerably cheap.

There are certain times when very good Bargains may be had. If you should therefore think proper to entrust us with the purchase of anything further, we would advise you to transmit any our orders by the first opportunity, that we may have it in our power to execute them as those favourable Junctures occur, and it at any time, by the mis-carriage of your Vessels or otherwise, our credit can be of use to you, you may depend Gent. we will most cheerfully strain it to the extent.

Cap. Calender sailed from this port about the 18th of May

and took with him the proceeds of his own, the Capt. Saunders' & Capt. Markums Cargoes, consisting of Powder and Arms, in the pilot Boat sent out for the purpose. We should be very sorry to hear of his mis-carrying with so valuable a Vessell.

Wishing Virginia all the prosperity & Happiness to which her noble spirited & exemplary conduct so justly entitles her, we are and shall remain with much respect.

Sirs

Your most ob't. h'ble Serv't.,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

Prices Curr't at this place.

Superfine Flour 75 a 80s. p. barr'l.

Common Do 66 a 70s. p. barr'l.

Tobacco 50 a 60s. p. C't.

Corn 8s. p. bush'l.

Pork 100s.

Beef 90s.

Lumber, none.

Copy—the original by Capt. Wickers of the Continental ship reprisal.

(Endorsement)

Van Bibber & Harrison,

Letter dated Aug. 15,

Inclosing Invoice, 1776.

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good order, and well conditioned by Van Bibber and Harrison in and upon the good Boat.....call'd the.....whereof is Master, under God, for this present voyage, and now riding at anchor in Road of St. Eustatius and by God's Grace bound for North America Today;

Four thousand pounds Gun Powder and ninety stand of Arms on the proper Acc't & Risque of the Colony of Virginia and consigned to the Committee or Council of Safety for that Colony or such other as the said Boat may arrive being marked and numbered as in the margin and to be de-

livered in the like good order, and well conditioned, at the aforesaid Port or Ports in America (the danger of the seas only excepted) unto the Committee or Council of Safety as aforesaid or to their assigns, he or they paying freight for the said goods. Ten per cent. on the Gross sales with primage and average accustomed. In witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Boat hath affirmed to 3 bills of lading, all of this tenor and date; the one of which 3 bills being accomplished, the other 2 to stand void. And so God send the good Boat to her desired Port in safety. Amen.

Dated in

THOMAS DAVIS.

St. Pierre, Martinque,
Aug. 15th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—

I did myself the Honour of writing you the 20th ulto, when I fully reply'd by four different Vessels to your fav'r of the 1st June.

Since then nothing has occurred worth communicating except the visit we have had from Capt. Lambert Wickes in the Continental ship reprisal. I need not mention the particulars of his Engagement with the Kings Ship Shark, off this Harbour, this Victory—you will undoubtedly have received them. But as a matter more interesting, & which will serve to confirm the account I gave you of the friendly disposition of the French, I cannot omit informing you that he has experienced here every civility Honour & distinction due to a first rate. His Treatment indeed has far exceeded my most sanguine wishes.

A few days after being moor'd Admiral Young dispatched a Frigate to demand him as a pirate (the softest appellation these tools of depotism deign now to afford good men engaged in the best of causes) but she was obliged to return with a short pithy answer that, I fancy will not be very well relished, tho' it must go down I suppose.

This affair was of a very delicate nature, & must have embarrass'd Government much had not a Frigate luckily arrived

from France a day or two before, with Instructions to the General, openly to countenance all our Vessells; and in this case they were, I am well convinced complied with in the most extensive Sense. I leave you to draw your conclusions from this and other occurrences of a similar nature, & to judge whether they might not be improved to the advantage of America.

I refer you to the letter of V. B. & H. of this date for mercantile matters and am most respectfully.

Sirs

Your ob't. h'ble Serv't.

R. HARRISON.

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety of Virginia.

COL. WILLIAM CHRISTIAN³ TO BRIG. GENL. RUTHERFORD OF
NORTH CAROLINA.

Botetourt County Virginia,
August 18th, 1776.

Sir:—

The Lieutenant Governor and Council of Virginia, have been pleased to order me to take the Command of the Forces that are to march against the Overhill Cherokees.

³Instigated by John Stuart and other English Indian agents, the Cherokees took up the hatchet in 1775, and began raids in the border. The defeat of the British at Charleston disconcerted the plans for a savage invasion of Georgia, but western North Carolina and south-western Virginia were attacked. Attacks by the Indians on Fort Lee, on the Watauga, and Heaton's Station, at Long Island, of Holston, were defeated but the Indians broke up into small parties and ravaged the country as far as the present Abingdon, Va.

In July, 1776, the Virginia government received information that an expedition from the two Carolinas would proceed against the Cherokee lower towns, and at once it was determined that a force should march from Virginia to the upper town known as Over Hill. Col. Charles Lewis (of Albemarle county) with his battalion of minute men was ordered on the service, but on receipt of news of the ravages in Clinch Valley, the force was increased, and Col. William Christian made commander-in-chief. At the Long Island of Holston, the Virginia troops were joined by three or four hundred North Carolinians under

Therefore your letter of the 5th of this Month is this moment delivered to me. On the 15th Instant I wrote a letter to the Commanding officer of the South Carolina Army; the express I gave the letters to, I am just told, has not yet left his own house which is about 25 miles from me on the way

Colonels Joseph Williams, Love, and Major Winston. The combined force pushed forward into the Indian country, and though several thousand warriors had gathered they did not venture to make a stand, but retired into the mountains. Christian then destroyed their towns and laid waste their fields. The Cherokees, hopeless of making a defence, asked for peace, and early in 1777 a treaty was made which was finally confirmed on June 26th. This campaign was known as the "Cherokee Expedition."

Col. William Christian, who was born in Augusta county in 1743, was killed by the Indians, April 9, 1786. He was a member of the House of Burgesses for Fincastle at the sessions of March, 1773, May, 1774, and June, 1775, and of the Conventions of March and July, 1775. In 1775 he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 1st Virginia regiment, and in 1776, colonel of the 1st Virginia battalion of minute men and commander of the expedition against the Cherokees. In 1780 he commanded another expedition against the Cherokees. In 1785 he removed to Kentucky and settled near Louisville. In the next year, he, with a party of settlers, pursued some hostile Indians across the Ohio, and near the present Jeffersonville, Indiana, he was shot and killed.

The Calendar of Virginia State Papers contains a number of letters from him in regard to the defence of the West, and from others expressing great grief at his death. He was one of the ablest and best-loved men of the border.

Col. Christian made a number of reports during the "Cherokee Expedition," which will be published in proper order.

See Henry's *Patrick Henry*, I, 459-465; Ramsey's *History of Tennessee*, 165-169; *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, VII, 2-4, 7, 11-12, 113-116.

Col. Charles Lewis, who commanded the other battalion of minute men in this campaign, was son of Robert Lewis, of Belvoir, Albemarle county. He was captain of the first volunteer company raised in the county at the beginning of the Revolution, and after commanding in the minute men during the "Cherokee Expedition," he was on November 12, 1776, commissioned colonel of the 14th Virginia regiment. He served for a time in Washington's army; but resigned March 28, 1778. He was then given command of the regiment guarding British prisoners at Charlottesville, and died while performing this duty, in 1779.

to Carolina, so that I will send after him and desire him to take this also to you.

It was not, until I received your letter, that I understood the Cherokees were to be attacked at three different places; indeed I was doubtful that the way from North Carolina to the Valley Towns was so mountainous and rugged that it could not be well done that way. But good men can surmount all difficulties, and the plan is undoubtedly an excellent one.

The letter the Express has for the Commanding Officer in South Carolina, you will be pleased to open, and send it forward, or not as you may think necessary. I should think that the Express had better return from you to me, as you can no doubt give me any intelligence necessary respecting the South Carolina Army. I shall desire the Express to call on Lieutenant Colonel Williams, as he goes to you from whom I wish to know how soon he can be in Fincastle County.

The number of effective men allotted to be under my Command are 1450 besides those from your Province. They are now gathering with all possible dispatch and will begin to march in less than two weeks from the different Counties in which they are to be raised. I have appointed the General Rendezvous to be held at the Big Island on Holstons river on the 20th day of Sep. the Island is in the Enemys Country and within 130 miles of the principal overhill Towns. I shall endeavour to march in a day or two after the Rendezvous, and loose no time afterwards but hurry on as quick as possible. I hope to take with me Fifty days provisions. The Flour I will have in Waggon and will open a Waggon road as I go. When I wrote on the 15th Instant to South Carolina I imagined that it would be betwixt the 10th & 15th of October before I could be at the Towns. But now I conclude I may be there about the 5th. I have no doubt of marching ten miles each day. I know of nothing that can delay me except repeated Skirmishes, or broad river its being high. I am now near the center of the Country which will furnish the provisions & men for the Expedition, therefore I shall wait

here; if nothing new occurs, about ten days longer and then begin to move towards the place of Rendezvous which is 190 miles from here; in order to be there eight or ten days beforehand.

After the Bearer returns, should you think it necessary to send to me again in a short time it will be best to direct your messenger to come by Fort Chiswell in Fincastle County, at which place he may be informed where I shall be. Would it not be well for us to keep messengers constantly passing and repassing, as many unforeseen events may happen to either of us necessary to be known by the other, will it be possible for you sir to proceed to the overhill Towns after you drive off the Valley people or will the South Carolina Army do it, or is it intended that either shall.

I shall think myself happy in co-operating with you, or any other officer of the United States, for the interest of them or either of them, and I know the state whose Servant I have the Honour to be, will rejoice at our harmony and unanimity. May we then go on with speed and success to crush our Savage Enemies; and in a short time be ready to turn our Victorious Arms to meet our more then savage abettors wherever they may appear to disturb the repose of our American Brethren.

From the last Accounts I have had from the Northward, nothing considerable has happened; but as General Howe was in Staten Island with odds of Twenty thousand men it is probable that some Manoeuvre will soon be made by him or General Washington,

I am Sir

Aug.—18.

Copy letter to

Brig'e Rutherford,

August 18, 76.